

Application No.: 10/606,376

Docket No.: JCLA11125-R2

REMARKSPresent Status of the Application

Claim 13-15 are objected to because “the corners” should be amended to “a plurality of corners” in claim 13. The Office Action rejected claims 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Amano (JP 04033202A). The Office Action rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano.

Applicant has amended claims 13 to more clearly define the present invention. Applicant has also newly added claim 17. The limitation of claim 17 is as shown in Fig. 8, and no new matter is entered. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 13-15 and 17 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections

Claim 13-15 are objected to because “the corners” should be amended to “a plurality of corners” in claim 13. Currently, applicant has amended claim 13 with the addition of “each of the two U-shaped lamp tubes has at least one corner” to overcome the objection.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections

Applicant respectfully traverses the 102(b) rejection of claims 13-14 because Amano (JP 04033202A) does not teach every element recited in these claims.

In order to properly anticipate Applicants' claimed invention under 35 U.S.C 102, each and every element of

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claim in issue must be found, "either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference". "The identical invention must be shown in as complete details as is contained in the claim. Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F. 2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)." See M.P.E.P. 2131, 8th ed., 2001.

The present invention is related a back light module as claim 13 recites:

Claim 13. A back light module, comprising:
a frame having a middle region;
at least two U-shaped lamp tubes disposed inside the frame, wherein each of the two U-shaped lamp tubes has at least one corner, *the two adjacent U-shaped lamp tubes are respectively positioned at two sides of the frame and the corners of the two U-shaped lamp tubes are at the middle region of the frame while viewing from a direction perpendicular to the frame;* and
a diffusion plate positioned inside the frame above said lamp tubes.

Amano fails to disclose, teach or suggest the feature of that *the two adjacent U-shaped lamp tubes are respectively positioned at two sides of the frame and the corners of the two U-shaped lamp tubes are at the middle region of the frame while viewing from a direction perpendicular to the frame.* In Amano's reference, as shown in Fig. 2, four U-shaped lamps 3a,

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3b, 3c and 3d, are arranged in the frame. Any two of the adjacent U-shaped lamps are not positioned at two sides of the frame, and the corners of the two adjacent U-shaped lamps are not disposed at the middle region of the frame while viewing from a direction perpendicular to the frame. The two U-shaped lamps 3a and 3d positioned at two sides of the frame are not adjacent to each other. The corners 5 of the U-shaped lamps 3a, 3b, 3c and 3d are disposed at the edge portion of the frame. In addition, as shown in Fig. 5, two U-shaped lamps 31a, 31b and a W-shaped lamp 30 are arranged in the frame. The two U-shaped lamps 31a, 31b disposed at the two side of the frame are not adjacent to each other, and the corners of the U-shaped lamps 31a, 31b are disposed at the edge portion of the frame.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 13 patently defines over the prior art reference, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claim 14 patently defines over the prior art as well.

The Office Action rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Amano (JP 04033202A). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicant submits that, as disclosed above, Amano fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 13 from which claim 15 depends. Because independent claim 13 patently defines over the prior art reference, and should be allowed, claim 15 patently defines over the prior art as a matter of law, for at least the reason the dependent claim contains all features of its independent claim.

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Newly added claim

Applicant has also newly added claim 17 with the limitation of the two adjacent U-shaped lamp tubes are disposed in a mirror symmetric manner. In the Amano reference, any two of the adjacent U-shaped lamps are not arranged a mirror symmetric manner, and therefore Amano fails to teach the limitation of claim 17.

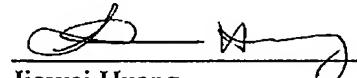
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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